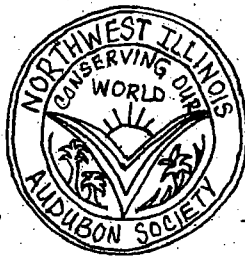


NORTHWEST ILLINOIS  
AUDUBON SOCIETY



Box 771  
FREEPORT, IL 61032

A Not-For-Profit Organization

A Chapter of The National Audubon Society

January 20, 2006

Upper Mississippi River NW&FR  
Attn: CCP Comment  
Room 101  
51 E. Fourth St.  
Winona MN 55987

To Whom it May Concern:

Below are comments from the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society regarding the Comprehensive Conservation Plan Supplement. Our membership area in northwest Illinois includes riverside portions of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties. Our 275-member group often holds field trips to the river and wetlands of the Refuge, as well as to adjacent bluffslands. Additionally, we have assisted in insect surveys at the Lost Mound unit, and contribute support to the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Palisades group. Our interest in and concern about river issues are long-standing.

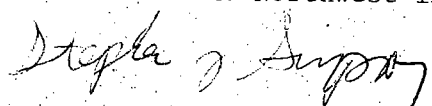
We have read with interest and great concern the Executive Summary of Alternative E. It seems to us that, on balance, Alternative E is a calculated retreat from many of the best wildlife-based provisions of Alternative D which it replaces.

It appears that the currently recommended Alternative sees our refuge system as a recreational playground for humans rather than as a "refuge" for wildlife and fish. Alternative D had, in our considered opinion, provided ample opportunities for humans to enjoy the refuge while taking important steps toward making the refuge function more as President Roosevelt originally intended.

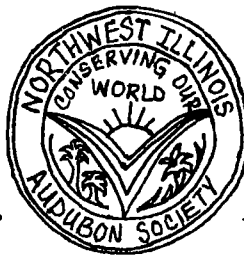
Changes proposed from Table 1, 1.1 - 3.9 appear to be strengthening, while those from 4.1 - 4.8, 4.12, 5.1 and 5.2 weaken Alternative D considerably (NOTE: The document's numbering system needs to be redone. For example, 4.12 is less than 4.2 and is shown as being greater.). It is especially troubling that glass food containers are banned in favor of plastic. One only needs to visit any backwater or the Gulf coast to see the preponderance of plastic, in its various forms, already present. One can also look into the stomachs of sea turtles for plastic bottles and jugs. Actions on the Upper Mississippi affect the ecology of the Lower Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico.

Clearly, in order for the Refuge to remain a national treasure, additional actions are necessary to protect the important resources of this river system. Our Society feels that Alternative D with only limited changes (eg. 1.1 through 3.9) remains the best choice for guiding Refuge management for the next 15 years.

On behalf of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society,

  
Stephen Simpson  
NIAS President

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS  
AUDUBON SOCIETY



Box 771  
FREEPORT, IL 61032

A Not-For-Profit Organization

A Chapter of The National Audubon Society

August 24, 2005

Upper Mississippi River NW&FR  
Attn: CCP Comment  
Room 101  
51 East Fourth St.  
Winona MN 55987

2455

To Whom it May Concern:


Below are comments from the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society regarding the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). Our membership area in northwest Illinois includes riverside portions of Carroll and JoDaviess counties. Our 275-member group often holds field trips to the river and wetlands of the Refuge, as well as to adjacent bluffslands. Additionally, we have assisted in insect surveys at the Lost Mound unit, and contribute support to the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Palisades group. Our interest in and concern about river issues are long-standing.

We feel that of the options presented, Alternative D presents the best balance between wildlife conservation and public use. Specifically:

- Additional regulations for public use, i.e. island sanitation, dog restrictions, additional no-wake zones, etc., are necessary because of the growing number of people using the river.
- It is important to create more avenues for non-motorized recreation, i.e. additional canoe and hiking trails, in order to serve a broader constituency, yet have minimal impact on wildlife.
- Additional hunting and fishing regulations, i.e. elimination of permanent blinds, creating hunting party spacing requirements, etc., are necessary because of the increasing population of these user groups and the resulting likely negative impacts to the river system.
- Increased control of invasive plant and animal species is critical to the long-term protection of the river system.
- An increase in monitoring activities, widening the current focus, is important for effective management of the area.

Clearly, in order for the Refuge to remain a "national treasure," as stated by Refuge Manager Don Hultman, additional actions are necessary to protect the important resources of this river system. Our Society feels that Alternative D is the best choice for guiding Refuge management for the next 15 years.

On behalf of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society,

  
Stephen Simpson  
NIAS President